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Message Text

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13
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /091 W
---------- 119268
P P 150935 JUL 74
FM AMCONSUL NAHA
TO AMEMB TOKYO
INFO SECSTATE WASH DC 1447
COMUSJ FUCHU JAPAN
USARGO FORT BUCKNER
313TH AD KADENA
COMFLEACTS OKINAWA
MARCORB CAMP BUTLER
CINCPAC/POLAD HAWAII
5TH AF FUCHU JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 319
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR JA
SUBJ: IE SHIMA INCIDENT
SUMMARY: IN THE IE SHIMA SHOOTING INCIDENT,THE LEFTISTS APPEAR TO HAVE AN ISSUE THAT THEY WILL PRESS ON HEAVILY AND TO OUR HARM. IF THE AIRMEN ARE RELEASED TO JAPANESE JUDICIAL JURISDICTION, THIS WILL DAMPEN IT SOME. THE DFAB HAS ASKED FOR A WEEK OR SO HALT IN RANGE USE. WE THINK,WHILE A HALT IS INADVISABLE,SOME GESTURE

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OF TEMPORARILY LIMITING RANGE USE-PARTICULARLY AT NIGHT-IS WORTH DOING. END SUMMARY.
1. AS NOTED IN SEPTEL ON THE PRESS REACTION,THE IE SHIMA INCIDENT IS BEING ADOPTED BY THE LEFTISTS (AND EVEN,DEFENSIVELY,BY SOME CONSERVATIVES) AS A MAJOR LOCAL ISSUE. THE AIR FORCE EXPECTS TO DECIDE VERY SOON WHETHER THE INVOLVED AIRMEN DID THE ACT IN THE COURSE OF DUTY OR NOT. IF WE RETAIN JURISDICTION,THAT WILL RAISE
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A HOWL HERE. IF THE DECISION-WHICH WILL BE MADE ON STRAIGHT-FORWARD LEGAL GROUNDS-IS TO GIVE THE JAPANESE JURISDICTION,THE PROTESTS WILL BE DAMPENED DOWN. EVEN SO,WE EXPECT THE LEFTISTS WILL PERSIST ON THIS ISSUE. GUNNERY RANGES BY AN INHABITED AREA ARE JUST TOO GOOD A POLITICAL TARGET ALSO. PHYSICLLY THE RANGES ARE AT-TRACTIVE TO DEMONSTRATIONS. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO PREVENT GROUPS FROM ENTERING THE SPRAWLING RANGE UNFENCED AREA,AND,BY SIT DOWN TACTICS,STOPPING THE RANGE USE. THE LOCAL CHIEF OF THE DEFENSE FACILITIES BUREAU (DOZAKI) HAS INDICATED TO US THAT THE RIOT POLICE WOULD CERTAINLY DO THEIR BEST TO PREVENT BLOCKAGE,AS THEY HAVE DONE WITH MARINE ARTILLERY RANGE DEMONSTRATIONS. HOWEVER,IT WILL NOT ONLY BE HARDER AT IE SHIMA,BUT THE LEFT MAY WELCOME THE PUBLICITY IT WILL GET THEREBY. IN ANY EVENT,THIS INCIDENT WILL

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COST US BY THE ATTENTION THAT HAS BEEN POLITICALLY FOCUUSED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS ON THIS HIGHLY IMPORTANT AND SOMEWHAT VULNERABLE AERIAL RANGE INSTALLATION. IT PROBABLY WILL LEAD ALSO TO GREATER AND EARLIER ATTENTION THAT WE HAD HOPED ON THE TIME SHARING ARRANGEMENTS WE UNDERSTAND HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT AT THE WORKING LEVEL FOR THE EXPO PERIOD.
2. ON JULY 15 DOZAKI CALLED ON 313TH AD CG GENERAL MCCLAIN (WITH ME ALSO PRESENT) TO ASK THAT THE AIR FORCE SUSPEND USE OF THE IE SHIMA RANGE FOR A WEEK TO TEN DAYS. DOZAKI ARGUED THAT THIS WOULD COOL OFF THE PRESENTLY AROUSED PUBLIC INTEREST OVER THIS ISSUE AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR LEFTISTS TO MOBILIZE THEIR PRESENT EFFORTS AGAINST THE RANGE. GENERAL MCCLAIN POINTED OUT THE HEAVY DEMANDS ON THE RANGE,AND HIS DOUBTS AS TO THE EFFICACY OF A TEMPORARY HALT IN USAGE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PRECEDENT THIS WOULD FORM AND THE PROBLEMS OF BEGINNING USE AGAIN AFTER HALT. HE INFORMED DOZAKI THAT HE WOULD,HOWEVER,RAISE THIS WITH HIS SUPERIORS. HE ALSO POSTPONED NIGHT PRACTICE SCHEDULED FOR THAT EVENING.
3. I SHARE GENERAL MCCLAIN'S CONCERN ABOUT A FULL HALT TO USE OF THE RANGE. I NOTED TO HIM, HOWEVER,THAT I BELIEVE THE AIR FORCE

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SHOULD CONSIDER ANNOUNCING SOME PARTIAL LIMIT ON RANGE USE FOR A TEMPORARY PERIOD. THIS COULD BE PHRASED AS FOR AN INTERIM WHILE RANGE PROCEDURES ARE REEXAMINED IN ORDER TO PREVENT FUTURE OCCURENCE OF SIMMLAR INCIDENTS. NIGHT USE PARTICULARY MIGHT BE TEMPORARILY CURTAILED. THIS PROCEDURE WOULD AVOID THE PRECEDENT AND PROLEMS OF A FULL HALT,BUT BE TAKEN BY THE PUBLIC AS AN INDICATION OF OUR QTE SINCERITY UNQTE ON THIS ISSUE.

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